

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Heinz FOCKE, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/533,221

Group Art Unit: 1731

Confirmation No.: 7071

Examiner: Phu Hoang NGUYEN

Filed: April 29, 2005

For: DEVICE FOR PROCESSING TOBACCO DURING THE PRODUCTION OF
CIGARETTES

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed non-U.S. patent documents is submitted herewith. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i), the undersigned is not submitting a copy of the cited U.S. '932 patent.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after either a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), but before payment of the Issue Fee, and therefore Applicant is submitting herewith a check for the fee of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p), and a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e). The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except

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U.S. APPLN. NO. 10/533,221

for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a counterpart Japanese Office Action, citing such documents, together with an English-language version of that portion of the Office Action indicating the degree of relevance found by the Japanese Patent Office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 9, 2008